



MINUTES

RILEY COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 11, 2014

The Riley County Park Advisory Board met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Riley County Park Office. Board members in attendance were Joe Edmunds, Ron Pauli, Janie Dunstan, Alan Brown, Tom Finney, Michael Gassmann, Vern Bulk, Amber Myers, Ed Burch, Deandra Anderson, and Mike Roediger. Staff members in attendance included; Leon Hobson, Greg Lund, and Mary Graham. BOCC member Dave Lewis and Fieldhouse project Chair Gail Urban also attended.

The meeting was called to order by board chair, Joe Edmunds. Introductions were made and minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The meeting began with a presentation by Gail Urban on the proposed field house project. Discussion followed Gail's presentation and included the cost of the feasibility study, what sports would be represented in each park, the indoor recreation area, the cost of the entire project and how the project would be funded.

The monthly budget summary report was presented. Staff reported that the look of the budget summary was somewhat changed due to the fact that the Parks Department was assimilated into Public Works. This resulted in only line items with actual dollar amounts being seen on the spreadsheet. Because it is still early in the year there were no major expenditures to report.

Staff reported on current county park projects. Riley County Parks set up a booth at the Garden Show in Pottorf Hall on February 22-23. Volunteers answered many questions from the public and the overall response was good. An increase in general awareness of County Park projects in process was perceived. Thanks to all that helped with the booth and contributed information for us to use.

Fairmont Park - The Fairmont trail grant is still in process and the application period will begin soon. The two houses scheduled for demolition have been removed. Several concrete foundations, septic tanks, and dead trees were removed. The ribbon cutting for the expansion of the Disc Golf course and “Ice Bowl” tournament on Feb 22nd went very well and was attended by many including the course sponsors and more than 50 players.

Randolph Park – The Bridge in the park is being replaced. The community has raised \$1,200 and the remainder will be funded by a grant.

Wildcat Park – There are no current projects scheduled at this time but the trees could benefit from some pruning in the near future.

The Riley County Extension Park Quest program will begin soon. Rocky Ford and Fairmont Park are two locations of several that may be highlighted this year. Ginny Barnard has been working on a Grant with the Kansas Health foundation. The Grant will include the City of Manhattan, Riley County and the community. They are in need of volunteers on both of these programs.

Staff reported that Dave Schoenweis tendered his resignation from the board at the last meeting and was honored by the BOCC and Public Works Department for his years of dedicated service.

The last joint City/County Park board meeting was January 2012. All agreed that the timing is right to schedule a meeting since the City Park Board will be discussing their opinions on the field house project. A meeting of these two groups will be made in the near future.

Using email to update Board members on upcoming events, planned meetings and other needed information will be sent, hard copies will be sent when required or requested. This will help in getting information out to Board members in a timely manner.

Community park fund allocation request were presented. Each year \$20,000 from the park fund is budgeted for improvements to community parks in Riley County. \$10,000 in county park improvement funds are also allocated annually for a total of \$30,000. Ron Pauli moved to allocate the 2014 community park funds for recommendation to the County Commission as shown below:

Randolph	electrical updates to bathroom	3,000
	exhaust fan for north bathroom	1,000

	sand for playground	250
	landscaping	1,000
Leonardville	basketball court lines	500
	bench for park at ball field	450
	basketball nets	120
	seesaw	1,550
	solo spinner	550
Riley	kiddie cushion for playground	2,500
Ogden	swimming pool chairs	1,000
	park bench	400
	backstop repair	1,500
Keats	concrete curbing for parking lot	11,180
Fairmont	paths for playgrounds	<u>5,000</u>
2014 Total		\$ 30,000

Tim Finney seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Joe opened the meeting up for discussion on the field house project. Discussion continued with many comments and questions on whether or not the Board was supportive of the project at this time.

- What kind of revenue stream would there be as a result of the project?
- Would the county have to come up with the funds to cover the maintenance cost of any improvements?
- The mono-culture emphasis (all fields of one type in the same place) seems like the project is geared to tournaments and out of town people, shouldn't we be taking care of our local community needs?
- The board is opposed to a reduction of the existing number of ball diamonds.
- There could be more support by Riley County if Fairmont Park were included in the equation and not as an alternative site.
- The economic impact could be as great if the moving of the Fairgrounds were approved for 2-5 million dollars.

- There are several upcoming projects within the county that would make it difficult to support the field house project. For example, the county office and courts buildings need to be improved and will cost around \$50 million, EMS is needing a new building which would be another \$2 million, RCPD would like a new training facility and the firing range needs to be moved.
- Parking would need to be a consideration and what conflicts there might be with other events.
- Potential upgrades to Messenger Road may be needed for better access.
- Consider the mosquito issues.
- There was a general consensus among the board members to encourage the development of Fairmont Park as opposed to the HWY 24 location.
- Most also commented that we should keep one or two baseball/softball fields in CiCo if the current fields are moved to Anneberg Park.
- It was also stated that there needs to be more information and discussion on the project before proceeding with any final plan, this could include meeting with the City of Manhattan Park Board.

The BOCC was asked to provide \$10,000 from the economic development fund to help with the feasibility study. The Commission would like to have input and a recommendation from the Riley County Park Advisory Board. Michael Gassmann moved that the board encourage the BOCC to approve the funding for the feasibility study, Mike Roediger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Tom Finney moved to adjourn the meeting, Michael Gassman seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.